

Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Alcatel) to develop telecommunications in Mozambique

Rome, 30 March 2006 - Telespazio, a Finmeccanica/Alcatel company, and Mozambique's defence ministry have signed an agreement to develop telecommunications in the country, particularly in relation to the use of satellites in areas devoid of infrastructure.

The agreement will extend network infrastructure across the whole country, providing access to fixed and mobile telecommunications, data and internet services, for both civil and defence use. Furthermore, Telespazio's services will enable the country to develop a telemedicine network, thereby improving the efficiency of healthcare resources, to create an extended distance learning network at various educational levels up to university, and to improve communications between government ministries, providing the population with easier access to public services.

Telespazio CEO Giuseppe Veredice commented that: "the agreement, which is being financed by the ministry, shows the strategic importance attached by the Mozambique government to potential co-operation with Telespazio, a leader in high value-added satellite services and integrated telecommunications. Telespazio is able to provide the country with solid support in formulating its development guidelines for some of its main needs".

In the short term, this project will equip Mozambique with its own infrastructure network and related services. The network will initially be co-ordinated by Telespazio, but in the medium term will be managed independently by the responsible government agency, following the transfer of know-how.

These activities complement the strategic planning of international organisations that financially support high-tech initiatives with sustainable development potential for African countries.

The active presence of Telespazio not merely as a supplier, but as a local partner, opens the way to further initiatives in the country, and furthermore facilitates the company's entry into SADC (Southern African Development Community), of which Mozambique will become the reference point, as the only country endowed with such advanced technological solutions.